

Big Bend

Ranger Programs

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Big Bend National Park
Rio Grande Wild & Scenic River



August 7-20, 2016

Sunday, August 7

9:30 AM Guided Walk - “History Beneath Your Feet” Big Bend is rich with history, including the very trails we hike. Join Ranger A. Marini to learn more about what the Civilian Conservation Corps built and how we maintain these hiking trails using similar tools and construction methods. Meet at the Lost Mine trailhead. Bring water, a hat, and wear good hiking shoes. 1.5 miles. 1 hour.

Tuesday, August 9

9:30 AM Guided Walk - “Strategies for Survival” Our local environment may seem a less than ideal place to call home, but organisms – from ants to bears, even lichens – have developed creative ways to survive. Join Ranger J. Fenstermacher to learn about nature’s perspective on the secrets to survival. Meet at the Window View trailhead in the Chisos Basin. Bring water, a hat, and good walking shoes. 1/3 mile walk. 1 hour.

Friday, August 12

9:30 AM Guided Walk - “Building the Big Bend” Geology doesn’t have to be a quagmire of cryptic terms. Join Ranger J. Fenstermacher to learn some basic concepts and the events that have shaped the Big Bend. If you’re curious about how the Chisos Basin formed or the history behind some of its conspicuous formations, be sure to go along. Meet at the Window View trailhead in the Chisos Basin. Bring water, a hat, and good walking shoes. 1/3 mile walk. 1 hour.

8:00 PM Photography Program - “You’re Not Ansel Adams, But You Could Be...” Photography in National Parks can be a rewarding experience, a lasting memory, or just a way to document a place in time. Simple techniques will help you get the most out of your camera, be it digital or film. Regardless of format, the pretty view you’re attempting to capture may not be what you think it is... Join Ranger B. Smith for a photographic and resource discussion. Meet at the pull out at mile 15.3 on the road to Rio Grande Village. Bring a camera, tripod, and a chair if you have them. 1 hour.

Saturday, August 13

9:30 AM Program - “The Desert: It Wants to Kill You” Big Bend can be a dangerous place to visit, but don’t let that scare you from exploring the park and having fun. Join Ranger A. Marini to learn about the dangers of the desert and what you can do to stay safe and keep the park wild. Meet at the patio outside the Chisos Mountains Lodge. Wheelchair accessible. 1 hour.

Sunday, August 14

9:30 AM Guided Walk - “Fire: Friend or Foe?” For years fire suppression was park policy, but now the National Parks start their own fires. Join Ranger J. Jurado for a look at wildfire in Big Bend. Meet at the Chisos Basin trailhead. 1/3 mile. 45 minutes.

Monday, August 15

9:30 AM Program - “Tame the Wilderness” Would you know what to do if you got lost while hiking or got bit by a snake and were miles from help? Join Ranger J. Fenstermacher to learn basic outdoor skills which will help conserve our environment and help you feel more confident in the out-of-doors. Meet in the Panther Junction Community Room (adjacent to the Visitor Center) for this indoor “beat the heat” program. 1 hour.

Friday, August 19

9:30 AM Program - “The Many Hats of a Ranger” The most recognizable part of the National Park Service Ranger’s uniform is the iconic “Flat Hat.” But this is not the only hat a Ranger wears! Join Ranger M. Lavender for a show-and-tell of the many different hats a Ranger wears and the exciting jobs they perform. Meet at the patio outside the Chisos Mountains Lodge. Wheelchair accessible. 45 minutes.

8:00 PM Photography Program - “You’re Not Ansel Adams, But You Could Be...” Photography in National Parks can be a rewarding experience, a lasting memory, or just a way to document a place in time. Simple techniques will help you get the most out of your camera, be it digital or film. Regardless of format, the pretty view you’re attempting to capture may not be what you think it is... Join Ranger B. Smith for a photographic and resource discussion. Meet at the pull out at mile 15.3 on the road to Rio Grande Village. Bring a camera, tripod, and a chair if you have them. 1 hour.

Saturday, August 20

9:30 AM Guided Walk - “Getting to Know the Agaves” Big Bend is home to a variety of species in the Agave family. Found throughout the park, they have played a major role in the lives of both humans and animals. Join Ranger J. Jurado for a closer look at some of these unique plants. Meet at the Panther Junction Visitor Center. Easy walk on the Panther Path. 30 minutes.